



St. Luke Lutheran Church
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St. Luke Lutheran Church

Parish Times Volume IV; Issue X, November 2007



Thoughts From Pastor Juli...

As we move into November, we are approaching the end of the Christian year. (Next year starts with Advent, December 2nd.) The weather is cold, the more forward thinking among us are preparing for Christmas already, and school children start making construction paper turkeys and pilgrims for Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving is an interesting holiday. The name reminds us that Thanksgiving was originally intended to give thanks to God. How thankful are we? 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 gives us a snapshot of how life should be: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Does that describe the way we live?

It's easy to take our blessings for granted, and good to be prodded every once in a while to take note of them. But we are told to give thanks in all circumstances, not just pleasant ones. Corrie ten Boom tells the story of how her sister gave thanks in a Nazi concentration camp for fleas. Corrie thought she was nuts, but it turned out later that fear of fleas kept the guards out of the barracks. Paul gave thanks while he was in prison, on death row, witnessing to what God had done for him. Jesus gave thanks (eucharisto) while he was waiting to be arrested and put to death. We, too, should give thanks in bad times, and for those things we don't immediately recognize as blessings.

Most of us remember the Sunday School song about counting our blessings. Studies have shown that people who consciously give thanks are happier, less stressed and healthier than those who don't. The Bible puts thanksgiving at the center of Christian life because when we give thanks, we are transformed. We are reminded of God's care for us, able to let go of material things, knowing that he will always provide what we need. Our relationship with God is made stronger, with fewer worries in the way of his love for us.

This Thanksgiving, many of us will follow the tradition of going around the table and saying what we are thankful for. Take the opportunity to reflect on all the things God does for us, and to give thanks for the negatives in our lives as well. Consider ways that you can incorporate Thankfulness into your life on a regular basis. Remember, giving thanks is God's will for us!

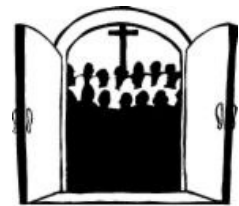


November Readers:
 4 – Barb Jensen
 11 – Roger Diestler
 18 – Joyce Bluel
 25 – Al Baird



Usher Notes...

Many thanks to our ushers for October: Roger Diestler, Doug Klein, Abby Klein, Alex Klein, Audrey McNamara, Bruce Magnuson, George Heriot, Al Baird
Our ushers for November will be: Lee Johnson, Carl Goers, Gwen and Steve Brummund, Mike and Nancy Hegdahl, Linda Funkhouser, Tom Gaarder



Congregational MEETING

Be sure to attend our semi-annual meeting on Sunday, Nov. 4 after worship. Let your voices be heard!

Please note that the 3rd Quarter giving statements are available to be picked up in the Social Hall.

Quarterly Givings Update:

Adopted 2007 Budget	\$115,557.39
2007 Pledges	\$83,487.69
2007 Envelopes/Loose Received	\$86,113.82



Call Committee

The call committee's work is under way! We've received names and are working to meet and interview candidates. This is an exciting time and the members of the call committee are dedicating themselves to finding a match in our next leadership. As these people make this a priority in their lives, I ask you to provide your prayers and support.

Sandi Gordon
Congregational President

November Birthdays:



- 1 - KOU VANG
- 2 - JEFF FAUST
- 3 - MARK JUNDT
- 5 - SAM KIM
- 6 - PHYLLIS BILLMEYER
- 8 - THELMA KROSKY
- 13 - COLLEEN MCGOUGH
- 14 - JOSHUA VIGDAL
- 16 - BRENDA DREHMEL
- 17 - DWIGHT PAULSON, JOAN WILSON
- 18 - BRUCE MAGNUSON
- 19 - STEVE ROTH
- 23 - CHRISTINE SALABA
- 24 - KIRA FAUST
- 25 - BEN VIGDAL
- 26 - JANELL WALTER, JOHN JUNDT
- 27 - ADELINE BOICOURT
- 30 - MELVIN SWARD

November Anniversaries:



- 4 - PATRICIA AND PETER LEAHY: 1978,
- 9 - TRACY AND KEVIN ARNDT: 1991
- 12 - LARRY AND JANELLA LITZKOW: 1960
- 13 - CHUCK AND MI CHELLE KLEIN: 1976
- 15 - HAMLINE AND JOAN JOHNSON: 1947
- 24 - JEAN AND BILL KLOTZ: 1945
- 26 - JACK AND JOAN HOLTZ: 1960

November Acolytes:



- 4 - Michael Arndt
- 11 - Alec Schultz
- 18 - Abby W.
- 25 - Max Elliott

Our heartfelt appreciate to our Bun Volunteers for October: Julie Ellingson, Joan Wilson, Jill Burchill and Jeff Kingsley. Our November volunteers will be: Ken McGrew, Julie Ellingson, Joan Wilson and Jill Burchill.





Fall Bazaar Update

Thanks to all the hard work and planning by the white elephant, bake sale, raffle, kitchen, publicity and craft committees, another successful Fall Bazaar was held on Saturday, October 13th.

This is a great fund-raising effort and fellowship opportunity for our church and community and could not be done without the dedication and hard work of **all** of our members.

The chili was delicious and the infamous cream puffs made a big comeback!! The ever popular White Elephant Room was a treasure trove of bargains! The children found a variety of activities in the Kiddie Room to keep themselves busy while Mom and Dad shopped. It is amazing the talent this congregation has when it comes to baking and crafting, we had a good quantity of items to offer the shoppers.

Committee chairs: White Elephant Room: Jo Klein and David Elliott, Bake Sale: Audrey McNamara, Raffle: Julie Gaarder, Kitchen: Sandi Gordon, Kiddie Room: Barb Jensen and Alex Grzywinski, and Publicity: Carol Vigdal.

Thanks again for your support!!

2007 Fall Bazaar Chairs
Joyce Bluel and Margaret Vigdal



Many thanks to all who contributed items to our Bazaar raffle: Lois and Bob Porter, Jo Klein, Nancy Hegdahl, Carol and Larry Vigdal, Mary Jo Brandt, Christine Olson, Sue Grzywinski, Alex Grzywinski, Lorrene Chilian, Doug Klein, Jean Klotz, Joyce Bluel, Heidi and Marc Isaacson, Florence Noha, Tom and Julie Gaarder.



Thanks to everyone who helped in the kitchen at the bazaar. The kitchen couldn't be a success without all the dishwashers, people busing tables and those dishing up food. And thanks to the chili makers and desert bakers.

Sandi Gordon
Bazaar Kitchen Chair



Spotlight on...

Helen Klein

I was born May 17, 1918 in a house on Field Avenue, which is still there, only moved to the next lot over a basement, and an addition and second story were added.

My mother was born on a farm in Kasson, Minnesota. My father was born in Drammen, Norway and came with his parents, brothers and sisters to America. They married in 1909 and moved to the Homecroft area. They had four girls: Adeline, me, Jean and Audrey. I went to Homecroft School through 7th grade, then to Monroe Junior High for 2 years. I graduated from Mechanic Arts High School in 1936.

I was born into St. Luke; baptized July 14, 1918. My dad's brother, Nicolai, and his wife, Sophie, were my Godparents. I was confirmed April 4, 1931. I came out of school in 1936 with no work to be found, so I took a lot of part-time jobs. I learned something from each. I ended up with a Degree of Honor at Fraternal Insurance Company as a typist, and then became a supervisor of data processing. I married Karl on May 22, 1948. We were blessed with four children: Charles, Douglas, Julia and Jon.

When Jon was in first grade at Homecroft, the school needed a "Milk Lady" for one hour a day, so I took the job. My mom was the first "Milk Lady" at Homecroft with 35 bottles of milk a day. Then the principal asked me if I would be a teacher's aide with special education children. I said, "I will try." I stayed 28 years...! I loved working with children.

I was started teaching Sunday School when I was 14 years old, and taught for many years. I was a Sunday School superintendent and treasurer. I taught bible school and catechism class, and listened to recitations. I sang in choir and was active in Ladies Aid, now called Women's Bible Study Circles. My favorite book is "Girl of the Limber Lost" by Gene Stratton Porter; maybe that's why my favorite instrument is the violin.

I'm a quilter with my own designs; no patterns.

I love to do ceramics, especially porcelain, and I enjoy reading. My favorite hymn is "Jesus Keep Me Near The Cross".

I was Den Mother for my boys, and Brownie and Girl Scout leader for Julia.

I would like to see more young families attending church. My hope is that St. Luke continues as a mission church of which my parents were charter members.



Hey, youth! Join us for our next terrific event: an outing to "Comedy Sportz" (improv club) on Saturday, Nov. 17! Meet at church at 6:30 sharp. St. Luke will buy tickets; please provide for your own refreshment expenses. Should be great fun...don't miss it!



Notes From Conie...

-- **Singing for supper!** Confirmands and choir singers are enjoying soup supper before their respective Wednesday evening activities due to the special efforts of these cooks and bakers in September and October: Juli Thompson, Christa Hassman, Christine Olson, Sue McNeill, Jeff Kingsley, Nancy McGough and Jo Klein. Kitchen kudos go to Al Baird for serving the weekly fare with grace and dedication. If you'd like to support our young people and our music program in savory culinary ways, please consider signing up on the kiosk. ☺

-- **Evensong for All Souls Day** -- A service of evensong will be shared on Sun, Nov. 4, 4 p.m. at Annunciation Catholic Church with Masterworks Chorale of Augsburg leading the singing, featuring a performance of Duruffe's Requiem along with smaller works by Tallis, Thompson, Tavener and Hovland. A free will offering will be taken. For more details, please contact Conie Borchardt.

-- **Rich worship experiences are like holiday dinners.** It's always at a special place, where we expect certain foods, people and activities to take place. Something about life would seem amiss if these traditions weren't carried out. Likewise, our weekly gatherings includes songs of joy and praise sprinkled among prayers of concern and thanksgiving that are lifted up which are surrounded by readings and a message to be reflected upon, followed by a peace to be shared and sacraments blessed and distributed to all.

We also look forward to new variations on old themes. In my family, a green macramé frog towel holder hung in my grandmother's bathroom and is now re-gifted every year at Christmas. It was ugly, but we all looked forward its reappearance and guessed who would get stuck with it. At church, new variations may look like serving apple crisp instead of apple pie from the Bazaar kitchen or may be singing a new liturgical setting every year in Advent. Same event and intention, slightly different look.

Over the last year, there's been a number of changes to our worship. In addition to shiny new books in our pews, acolytes are participating in the capacity of an assisting minister and leading prayers after the sermon and the passing of the peace. For a few special services the bulletin contained all the prayers and responsive readings in one easy to follow place. In a few short weeks, we'll be singing a new worship setting that at this writing is not yet decided. I hope you see how these are all variations on a theme -- changes subtle and great on the outside yet at the core has the same intent and direction as it ever did.

Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God alone)
Conie



Mmmmm!

Below is a soup Sue McNeill prepared for Soup Supper at church recently...perfectly heavenly!

Creamy Pumpkin Soup

- ¼ cup (1/2 stick) butter or margarine
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 2 tsp. packed brown sugar
- 1 can (14 ½ ounces) chicken broth
- ½ cup water
- ½ cup flour
- ½ tsp. salt (optional)
- ¼ tsp. ground black pepper
- 1 can (15 ounces) pumpkin
- 1 can (12 ounces) evaporated milk
- 1/8 tsp. ground cinnamon
- dash of pumpkin pie spice and nutmeg

Melt butter in large saucepan over medium heat. Add onion and sugar; cook for 1 to 2 minutes or until soft. Combine water and flour; stir until smooth. Add broth, water/flour, salt and pepper to saucepan; bring to a boil, stirring occasionally. Reduce heat to low; cook, stirring occasionally, for 10 minutes. Stir in pumpkin, evaporated milk and remaining spices. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 5 minutes.



What is Operation Christmas Child?

It's an effort to spread the word about the miracle of Jesus' birth along with providing gifts to children who otherwise would not receive gifts for Christmas. This Christmas season, please consider providing a shoebox full of toiletries and small toys to a child in need. Watch the St. Luke church bulletin or talk to Wendy Bjorklund for details. Thank you for your interest and support!

–Wendy Bjorklund,
Social Concerns Commissioner



Thanks so much to our Meals on Wheels volunteers for Sept. 28: Al Baird, Ann Verschoyle, Louie Billmeyer, Lee and Shirley Johnson, Eva Mac Niven, Jane McGrew, Betty Nelson and Audrey Rongstad.



107 Hungry People were served by the Loaves and Fishes program on Monday, September 24th. Many thanks to our workers: Dwight Paulson, Larry Litzkow, Helen Bye, Ann Verschoyle, and Eva Mac Niven. Thanks also to Audrey Rongstad and Donna Paulson for baking cookies.